

• AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Cancelled)

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Original) Plasmid pHE7009.

Claim 13. (Cancelled)

Claim 14. (Cancelled)

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A method of producing artificial hemoglobin, comprising:

introducing an expression plasmid which contains a DNA coding sequence for human hemoglobin wherein the asparagine residue at position 108 of the β -chains is replaced by a glutamine residue ~~(SEQ ID NO: 5)~~ (SEQ ID NO: 8) into a suitable host other than an erythrocyte and growing the transformed cells; expressing said DNA to produce said artificial hemoglobin; and

recovering and purifying said hemoglobin.

Claim 16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein said host cells are E. coli.

Claim 17. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein said expression plasmid is pHE7009.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Cancelled)

Claim 20. (Cancelled)

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Cancelled)

Claim 24. (Cancelled)

Claim 25. (Cancelled)

Claim 26. (Cancelled)

Claim 27. (Cancelled)

Claim 28. (Cancelled)

Claim 29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30. (Cancelled)

Claim 31. (Cancelled)

Claim 32. (Cancelled)

Claim 33. (Cancelled)

Claim 34. (Cancelled)

Claim 35. (Cancelled)

Claim 36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Cancelled)